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THIS WEEK'S NEWS FROM

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MFN Status for Russians?**U.S.-Soviet Contacts
Expand in Wake of Summit**

President Reagan didn't give away his Strategic Defense Initiative at the Geneva summit with Soviet ruler Mikhail Gorbachev, but he did sign a series of cultural and exchange agreements that have made left-wingers and peaceniks in this country nearly euphoric.

Writing in a recent issue of *Surviving Together*, a journal that promotes U.S.-Soviet contacts, Harriet Crosby said the Reagan-Gorbachev agreements will spark "the most far-reaching set of contacts and exchanges in the history of U.S. Soviet relations."

"It is now possible," Crosby said, "that we will witness an easing of tensions, a normalization of relations and a weaving together of the fabric of our two societies."

The return of Russian pianist Vladimir Horowitz to Moscow and the resumption of commercial airline service between the U.S. and the Soviet Union are only two aspects of the "new relationship" that has developed between the two countries. Some other examples:

- The U.S. Department of Commerce has approved the participation by U.S. companies in trade exhibitions scheduled for the USSR this year.

Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige has been quoted as saying that there can be a "substantial increase in the non-strategic trade" between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Last December, as reported by HUMAN EVENTS, Baldrige participated in a meeting of the U.S.-USSR Trade and Economic Council in Moscow. The meeting included representatives of 340 U.S. firms, such as IBM, Monsanto, General Electric, DuPont, Dow Chemical, Kodak, NCR, United Technologies, Coca Cola, Pepsico, Occidental Petroleum, Corning Glass, Ralston Purina, ARMCO, and Litton Industries.

At the conclusion of the meeting, according to one report, the members of the Trade and Economic Council unanimously approved a resolution urging most-favored-nation trading status for the Soviet Union. This would mean the lifting of the so-called Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which prohibits MFN status and Export-Import Bank credits for Communist nations that deny

freedom of emigration.

Last week, Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) suggested to the American Committee on East-West Accord, a group that favors East-West trade, that Jackson-Vanik be lifted for a year to see if the Soviets respond by allowing more emigration. (See Dole story, page 4.)

- The American Bar Association will send a high-level delegation to Moscow this month to meet with the Association of Soviet Lawyers. The trip is the result of a formal agreement between the two groups signed in May 1985. In the face of criticism of the agreement, ABA President William Falsgraf was recently quoted as saying that he has "been in contact with the White House and it has responded favorably."

- The National Academy of Sciences on April 1 signed an agreement with the Soviet Academy of Sciences to provide for U.S.-Soviet conferences, exchanges and workshops on scientific issues.

- The Council on Foreign Relations, an influential foreign policy organization, is planning to send a delegation to Moscow this year to meet with representatives of the Soviet Institute for the Study of the U.S.A. and Canada.

The number of organizations involved in the exchanges, governmental and private, runs into the hundreds. Even the Defense Department, a bastion of anti-Soviet sentiment, has been drawn into this new relationship. A law passed by Congress in 1985, in anticipation of the summit, requires that the secretary of defense establish a pilot program for exchange visits between high-ranking U.S. and Soviet military officers.

Left-wing and peacenik groups, which have been working with the Soviets on past exchanges, are enthusiastic over the prospects ahead. Harriett Crosby of the Institute for Soviet-American Relations says, "The challenge to American citizen groups is to recognize that President Reagan is doing many of the things they have been advocating in the field of exchanges and joint projects."

One note of caution has come from the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, an organization chaired by Heritage Foundation President Edwin J. Feulner Jr. The commission monitors the activities of the U.S. Information Agency, whose head, Charles Wick, recently traveled to the Soviet Union and is a big booster of the exchange program.

The commission said it welcomed the exchange agreements signed by Reagan and Gorbachev, but

Continued

2

added, "USIA, the Department of State, and the relevant private sector organizations must be vigilant to ensure that strict reciprocity is maintained in overall numbers of grantees and in academic fields. For example, U.S. social scientists traveling to the USSR must be matched by Soviet social scientists, and not nuclear physicists, coming to this country."

The commission's warning was a reference to the traditional Soviet ploy of restricting the activities of Americans visiting the USSR, while insisting on full access by their representatives to U.S. research institutions, including those involved in the hard sciences.

Lawrence B. Sulc, president of the Nathan Hale Institute, a Washington-based organization concerned with intelligence matters, says that Soviet delegations visiting the U.S. and other countries usually include highly trained intelligence officers and agents who gather information for military and intelligence purposes and spread Soviet disinformation.

Sulc, an intelligence operations officer for the CIA for more than 23 years, says that this is also true of Soviet sports teams that are sent abroad.

"When Soviet sports teams are fielded abroad," he says, "the athletes composing them are members of professional sports organizations the Dinamo Sporting Club and the Central Army Sports Club. The former belongs to the KGB, the Soviet foreign intelligence and internal security organization, and the latter to the GRU, Soviet armed forces intelligence.

"Sports jaunts abroad provide cover and training for Soviet special forces teams and their KGB counterparts, whereby they gain area familiarization and the opportunity to case their targets."

The basic problem with these exchanges, according to intelligence experts, is that all the Soviet delegations, whether they comprise scientists, academics or athletes, represent the Soviet state and the Communist party, and are not independent in any sense.

This is why the AFL-CIO continues to oppose contacts with Communist trade unions. The labor federation regards such unions as tools of the Communist state and not authentic representatives of working people. The AFL-CIO will not be part of the new "spirit of Geneva."

The ABA's relationship with the Association of Soviet Lawyers has come under strong attack by several lawyers, including Patience Tipton Huntwork and Orest A. Jejna of Phoenix, Ariz., who have urged that the agreement be canceled.

Huntwork charges that "The Association of Soviet lawyers has an institutional purpose and philosophy which preclude true dialogue. Instead

of dialogue, it fosters propaganda and duplicity."

She points out that Samuel Zivs, the vice president of the ASL, also serves as a top official of the Soviet Anti-Zionism committee, which has been a source of denunciations of Soviet Jews wishing to emigrate. Zivs has explained the reduction in the number of emigres from the Soviet Union by claiming, in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary, that "fewer people" had applied to emigrate.

On another occasion, Zivs said that non-Jewish Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov's forced stay in the Soviet city of Gorky had "nothing to do with the notion of exile," and that he was simply pursuing his career there.

The exile of prominent physicist Sakharov was the reason that the National Academy of Sciences broke off its exchange agreement with the Soviet Academy of Sciences in 1980. Last year, when the National Academy of Sciences began considering the resumption of the agreement, Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle publicly protested, saying, "I thought we were right to terminate that program when Sakharov was exiled. And if it was right to terminate the program then, it seems to be wrong to renew it now with Sakharov still in exile."

Perle went on to say, "I think one has to question the utility of scientific exchanges between scientists in the West who are free to speak their minds, who are free to share the results of their research, who are free to arrive at any conclusions their investigations bring them, and scientists in the Soviet Union, who are not permitted to arrive at conclusions that differ significantly from official policy."

The National Academy of Sciences responded to such criticism, after recently deciding to resume the agreement with the Soviets, by sending a telegram to Moscow protesting the plight of Sakharov.

In the new spirit of Geneva, it has become convenient to ignore or gloss over continuing violations of human rights by the Soviet Union, or to pretend that "dialogue" can somehow solve the problems.

Commercial air service between the U.S. and the Soviet Union was originally limited and then banned entirely in response to three incidents: the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Soviet-engineered crackdown on Solidarity in Poland, and the Soviet destruction of Korean Air Lines flight 007 in 1983.

Continued

3

But the Soviets are still in Afghanistan, Solidarity is still suppressed, and the Soviets have never even offered an apology for the destruction of KAL 007 and the 269 men, women and children on board. Yet, President Reagan agreed at the summit last November to resume commercial air service between the two countries.

The Soviets have seen, once again, that the U.S. will back down from even limited sanctions. The Geneva agreements represent not only an end to those sanctions, but an opportunity for more trade and aid from the West.